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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,224	09/16/2003	Masaru Suzuki	P/ 2850-85	2120

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EXAMINER	
CRANE, DANIEL C	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3725	

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/663,224	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel C. Crane	3725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *23 May 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6 and 8* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *7 and 10* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS OVER PRIOR ART

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schneider (4,981,031). See Figure 1 where the guide beam is provided with first carrier mechanism 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31 driven by rod system 37 and a second carrier mechanism 24, 26, 28 and 30 driven by rod system 36. Each of the first and second carrier mechanisms is provided with cross bars 34.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by VanderZee (5,979,212). See Figure 14 where the guide beams 40 support a plurality of carriers (unlabeled) with a first carrier mechanism 42c being upstream of a second carrier mechanism 42b, each of the carrier mechanisms having a plurality of carriers (see Figure 4). The carriers can be moved independently by drives 230, 246, 248. These drives can vertically move the carriers. The cross bars are shown at 130, 132. The lifting devices for the guide beams are shown in Figure 1 at 52, 54. With reference to claims 5, 6, 8 and 9, the claims can be read on VanderZee. In this regard, the feed beams 38, 40 are positioned on left and right sides of the press so as to allow for movement of the transfer assemblies in the direction of the press line. Vertically moving bodies 234 are provided with lifting devices 230 to facilitate vertical movement of the vertical moving bodies 234. Cross bars 130 or 132 are provided with work piece holders 268, 270 and are fitted between mutually opposed vertically moving bodies 234. The lifting devices 230 are "independently driven" because as shown in Figures 12A-12F the moving body at one of the feed beams is positioned in a lowed location and the moving body at the other feed beam is positioned in a raised location. Accordingly, the lifting devices 230 can

be driven in different directions, thus, constituting "independent" drives. Each of the lifting devices is provided above the feed beams.

Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Allgoewer (5,727,416). See Figures 1-3 where the feed beams 3 are provided with vertically moving bodies 5, each having a lifting device 6, for vertically moving a cross bar 12 that is attached to opposed pairs of vertically moving bodies. The lifting devices 6 are shown to be above the feed beams 3. As to claim 7, see Figure 6 where the lifting devices 1, 6 can be mounted to be in a freely swinging arrangement through the socket joints 25, 26.

RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S COMMENTS

As to Schneider, the fact that all the carriages are connected to one another and are moved integrally is irrelevant as far as the claimed language is concerned. Schneider clearly shows that a first carrier mechanism, which consists of rod 37 and lever 47, is connected to a most upstream carrier 23, 25, 27 and 29, relative to its respective downstream carriers 24, 26, 28, 30, the respective downstream carriers being fed by a second carrier mechanism, which comprises a rod 36 and lever 48. Applicant's argument that Schneider does not suggest a carrier mechanism provided for the carriage mechanism on the most upstream side and a carrier mechanism for the other carriages with the other carriages realizing a carrier motion that is different from a carrier motion of the most upstream carriage is unsupported by the claimed subject matter and, thus, is a moot point. Contrary to applicant's remarks, Schneider's cross bars can be raised and lowered when the rails 18 are vertically moved (see column 3, lines 23-25).

Contrary to applicant's comments relating to VanderZee, a plurality of carriers are supported on the guide beams 40 with carriers being located downstream at 42c and upstream at 42b. A first carrier mechanism, which comprises drives 230, 246 and 248, can feed the carriers in directions both horizontally (in the press line direction) and vertically. The carriers are shown to be connected to the cross bars 130, 132. Accordingly, applicant argument that VanderZee does not disclose a plurality of carrier located in the down stream direction is inaccurate. Any of the components of the cross bar assembly 42c (downstream carriers) that supports the cross bars 130, 132 and is driven by drives 230, 246 and 248 constitutes the "carriers". Even though VanderZee shows in Figure 14 one upstream assembly 42b and a downstream assembly 42c, each of these assemblies includes a plurality of "carriers" on the right side of the assembly and on the left side of the assembly. Thus, pairs of carriers are provided, each pair arranged in opposed manner and each being relegated to a right side or a left side. The claims have been given their broadest reasonable interpretation and as such the claimed subject matter does not define over VanderZee. As to claims 2 and 3, vertical movement of the carriers is accomplished by drive 230. While VanderZee does not specifically state that vertically moving bodies are moved simultaneously to move the cross bars, VanderZee does state that the end of the cross bars 130 and 132 can be raised or lowered by motors 230 without raising the guide beams 38 and 40 (see column 17, lines 49-55). It is clearly evident that to attain such a positioning of the cross bars, the cross bars must be simultaneously moved driving the paired motors 230 of each cross bar to facilitate repositioning of the cross bar. This is inherent.

Applicant's arguments relating to Allgoewer is unsupported by the claimed subject matter. The claims do not state that the feed beams are movable in the direction of the press line.

On the contrary, the feed beams "allow movement in a direction of the press line" (emphasis added). Thus, Allgoewer's feed beams 3 allow for movement of the carriages and cross bars in the direction of the press line.

With reference to the application of VanderZee against claims 8 and 9, this was necessitated by applicant's amendment. In light of the above interpretation of the claims relative to VanderZee, claims 5 and 6 were included within that grouping of claims (claims 5,6, 8 and 9).

INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 7 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner D. Crane whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4516**. The examiner's office hours are 6:30AM-5:00PM, Tuesday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mr. Derris Banks, can be reached at **(571) 272-4419**.

Documents related to the instant application may be submitted directly to Group 3700 by facsimile transmission at all times. Applicant(s) is(are) reminded to clearly mark any transmission as "DRAFT" if it is not to be considered as an official response. The Group 3725 Facsimile Center number is **(571) 273-8300**. The examiner's FAX number is **(571) 273-4516**

DCCrane
July 8, 2005

Daniel C. Crane
Primary Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 3725